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50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

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1. The Baltic coast defenses of the USSR, concentrated around the fortress of Tallinn, were built in 1940-41 according to a plan drawn up during World War I. This plan provided for a main line of defense to be drawn in the Gulf of Finland on a line Paldiski-Hango, with strong subsidiary defenses on the islands west of this line, while Kronstadt was to be supplanted by Paldiski (Baltiski Port) and Tallinn as the main base for the Soviet Baltic Fleet. The fixed defenses of the early plan were supplemented by strong infantry and artillery units in 1940-41, the sole function of which was to repel landing attempts. The area between the islands and the harbor of Tallin was guarded by a mine belt. Heavy naval units were based at Tallin (pending the completion of Paldiski), while light units were based at Libau.
2. With the German advance in 1941, defense plans fell through; many of the buildings and installations (including the oil storage tanks) were destroyed and coastal defense guns were removed. When the Germans retreated, they had no time to destroy the concrete buildings and contented themselves with breaking up or burning the wooden barracks and installations. Therefore, in 1944 the Russians were able to carry on with the preparations of the defenses almost where they had stopped.
3. The defenses of Tallinn are as follows:
 - a. Aegna Island (59°35'N, 24°45'E):
 - 1) This is the strongest of the Tallinn defense points and is armed with a battery of former Estonian 304 mm. guns, eight 152 mm. guns, and four 130 mm. guns.
 - 2) The 304 mm. guns are mounted in the upper two stories of three-story underground concrete casemates; the lowest story is used as a magazine. The emplacements are connected by underground corridors. The guns are covered by rotating armored turrets and are electrically operated on power generated by a special station outside the emplacements. The command posts are located in concrete cupolas near the guns.
 - 3) One battery of four reconditioned 152 mm. guns (make and type unknown) is mounted in concrete nests, as is the four-gun 130 mm. battery. The other battery consists of four newly installed 152 mm. guns on open mountings.

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- 4) The island is garrisoned mainly by marines, reinforced with infantry, mobile artillery, and anti-tank weapons for dealing with landing troops.
- b. Naiissaar (59°33'N, 24°30'E): Armed with two batteries, each of four 227 mm. guns of unknown type and make. One battery is mounted in concrete casemates and the other in open concrete emplacements. This is the main ammunition depot for the Tallinn defenses and, as such, has strong anti-aircraft defenses supported by field artillery.
 - c. Suurupi (59°27'N, 24°23'E): Mounts four 227 mm. guns in open concrete emplacements. Searchlights are mounted on a field railway. Measuring point for range cross-bearing base.
 - d. Viinai (unlocated): Four 152 mm. guns mounted in open concrete emplacements.
 - e. Kakumagi (Kakumag? - 59°27'N, 24°35'E): Mounts eight built-in 107 mm. field guns and a searchlight station.
 - f. Paliassaare (59°28'N, 24°42'E): A searchlight station.
4. The headquarters of the Tallinn defenses is in Tallinn itself and is under the command of the Soviet Baltic Fleet. The defenses are augmented by the light naval units (mine layers, mine sweepers, fighter aircraft) based at Tallinn. The infantry units used to augment the fixed defenses and to repel landings are at present equipped with anti-tank weapons and flame throwers.
5. Paldiski is destined to be the main base of the Soviet Baltic Fleet, in addition to being the southern strong point of the main defense line in the Gulf of Finland. Because of this, the defenses are being constructed at the same time as the harbor and naval base. Two new moles, 1 km. and 1.5 km. long, respectively, have been completed to the west of the old harbor, and the necessary railway tracks have been renewed. In the old harbor there are four underground oil tanks with a capacity of approximately 15,000 m³, filled directly from railway cars at a special newly-built station. From these tanks, oil is fed into the harbor by pipe line.
6. The entire civilian population of Paldiski with the exception of certain specialists has been evacuated, as have the populations of Klooga, Kurkse, and Pakri Island. Comment: Not stated whether Vaika Pakri or Suur Pakri is meant.) Native Estonians are used in construction work only if politically secure, and then only as laborers in the building of barracks and accommodations in the area of Klooga-Laulasmaa-Kurkse. In Paldiski itself, and on defenses generally, only Soviet workmen are employed; these men are segregated from the Estonians and live in special camps under military guard.
7. The defenses of Paldiski comprise:
- a. Eight 304 mm. guns (type and make unknown) in concrete emplacements in the marshy area south of Paldiski, with ammunition dumps and accommodations for the crews.
 - b. Pakri Peninsula: Concrete casemates for four 304 mm. guns and open emplacements for eight 152 mm. guns had been constructed prior to the summer of 1941, as had the men's accommodations and ammunition dumps in the limestone cliffs, searchlight stations, and a radio-telegraph station. From 1944 to the end of 1947, feverish building activity took place, including the construction of modern concrete casemates, observation posts, and command posts. The observation posts and command posts are modelled on the Maginot pattern and can be raised and lowered electrically, as can some of the small-caliber field guns. Pillboxes and emplacements for machine guns, anti-tank guns, and large-caliber field guns also have been constructed.
 - c. Pakri Island (sic) contains a battery of four 152 mm. guns in open concrete emplacements. Emplacements and mountings have been installed for some 304 mm. guns.

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- d. Kurkse (59°16'N, 24°03'E): Four 152 mm. guns in open concrete emplacements are in the Kurkse area. A new airfield is being constructed at Kurkse.
- e. Häbara Airfield (15 km. south of Paldiski) (unlocated) is the main base for the air forces allocated to the Paldiski defense area.
8. The number of troops in the Paldiski-Klooga (59°20'N, 24°14'E) area, excluding the fortress garrison, amounts to approximately one division. Accommodations in the area are full. The fortress of Paldiski is under the command of the Soviet Navy, which also has authority over the military units. The latter consist of motorized infantry and artillery with a few tanks, and strong anti-aircraft formations. Civilians can enter this area only with special passes. As in the case of Tallinn, the defenses of Paldiski are augmented by the torpedo boats, minelayers, and minesweepers based there. Work on defenses has also been observed in the area of Laukulla and on the peninsula on the northern side of the bay of Klooga, from which the civilian population has been evacuated. A 20-meter wide nearly straight road without ditches, connecting Paldiski and Leningrad, is at present under construction. 50X1-HUM
9. The entrance to Paldiski harbor is protected by two nets and [redacted] a minefield. One net connects the tip of the Pakri peninsula with Pakri Island, while the other is in front of the entrance to the old harbor. The existence of the minefield is deduced from the fact that the coastal waters for two miles out are strictly prohibited to all shipping.

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